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*File CDS*

*Yellow in DC*

ODP 8-1271

26 JUL 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Communications

FROM : Clifford D. May, Jr.  
Director of Data Processing

SUBJECT : Cable Dissemination System (CDS)

1. Our experience in handling electrical traffic over the CDS interface to date has surfaced three problem areas which should be addressed before the link between the OC narrative message network and the ODP data processing facility can be used productively.

2. The first problem relates to the limited storage of message traffic. If we experience any type of outage in our batch service in excess of eight hours, incoming non-Agency messages from CDS are no longer available. End users (including the Office of Central Reference, Office of Weapons Intelligence, Office of Communications STRESS application) can only get their message traffic in hard copy form. It is requested that CDS store all incoming messages for a minimum of seven days in a form suitable for electrical retransmission. Our preference is for a receipt system in which CDS retains the data until its acceptance is acknowledged.

3. Secondly, requests for retransmission of messages from CDS are handled manually with no mechanism for us to verify if any or all of the requests have been transmitted. Retransmitted messages look like any other messages, with the possibility of duplicate messages being added to user files. It is requested, therefore, that CDS develop a method for positive identification of retransmitted messages, relative to the original transmission.

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4. Lastly, the procedure for initiating outgoing messages from ODP facilities to CDS is time consuming and subject to failure. It is necessary for CDS to provide a method for positive acknowledgement of the receipt of outgoing traffic from ODP. We are currently required to provide extensive procedures to keep from overloading CDS with outgoing traffic. Ideally, CDS should be able to accept a packet of messages, acknowledge receipt, and send them out.

5. It is essential that we work closely together not only with regard to these matters of immediate concern, but equally as important, with regard to your long-range plans for the CDS. [redacted] of our Production Division is prepared to discuss these matters in detail with your representative. I anticipate that we can agree upon a mutually satisfactory course of action to enable us to provide for a truly useful interface between CDS and the ODP computer facilities.

STAT

[redacted]  
Cliff [redacted] May, Jr.

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cc: DD/P/ODP  
DD/A/ODP  
C/MS/ODP  
C/DD/ODP  
C/ED/ODP  
C/PD/ODP

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